The LARK Edition

THE MAN WITH THE HOE

MARKHAM

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The Man with the Hoe

Edwin Markham

The Man with the Hoe

Edwin Markham

With illustrations by Porter Garnett

Doxey's
At the Sign of The Lark
New York

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UNIVERSITY PRESS · JOHN WILSON
AND SON · CAMBRIDGE, U.S.A.

Reprinted as originally published in the "San Francisco Examiner"

The illustrations and decorative designs in this volume are by Porter Garnett

The Man with the Hoe

The MAN WITH THE HOE

P.C.

GOD *made* Man *in His own* Image, *in the* Image *of* GOD *made He him.*

Bowed by the weight
of centuries he leans
Upon his hoe and
gazes on the ground,
The emptiness of ages in his
face,
And on his back the burden
of the world.

The Man with the Hoe

Who loosened and let down
this brutal jaw?
Whose was the hand that
slanted back this brow?
Whose breath blew out the
light within this brain?

Who made him dead to rapture and despair,
A thing that grieves not and that never hopes,
Stolid and stunned, a brother to the ox?

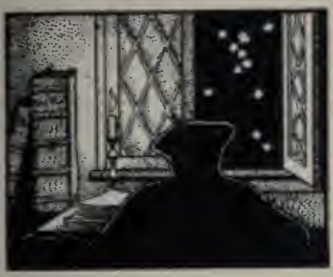
Is this the Thing the Lord
God made and gave
To have dominion over sea
and land;
To trace the stars and search
the heavens for power;
To feel the passion of Eter-
nity?

The Man with the Hoe

Is this the Dream He dreamed
who shaped the suns
And pillared the blue firma-
ment with light?

The Man with the Hoe

Down all the stretch of hell
to its last gulf
there is no shape more terrible than this—
more tongued with censure of the world's blind greed—
more filled with signs and portents for the soul—
more fraught with menace to the universe.



What gulfs between him and the seraphim!
Slave of the wheel of labor, what to him
Are Plato and the swing of Pleiades?
What the long reaches of the peaks of song,
The rift of dawn, the reddening of the rose?

Through this dread shape the suffering ages look;
Time's tragedy is in that aching stoop;
Through this dread shape humanity betrayed,
Plundered, profaned and disinherited,
Cries protest to the Judges of the World,
A protest that is also prophecy.

masters, lords and rulers in all lands,

s this the handiwork you give to God,

his monstrous thing distorted and soul-quenched?

The Man with the Hoe

How will you ever straighten up this shape;
ive back the upward looking and the light;
ebuild in it the music and the dream;
ouch it again with immortality;
ake right the immemorial infamies,
erfidious wrongs, immedicable woes?

O masters, lords and rulers in all lands,
How will the Future reckon with this Man?
How answer his brute question in that hour
When whirlwinds of rebellion shake the world?

How will it be with kingdoms
and with kings—
With those who shaped him to
the thing he is—
When this dumb Terror shall
reply to God,
After the silence of the cen-
turies?

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The LARK Edition

THE MAN WITH THE HOE

EDWIN MARKHAM